

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 745

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to recognize Jack Piepenbring on the occasion
of his retirement from the National Park Service.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those exemplary public servants who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Cades Cove District Ranger Jack Piepenbring is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for 28 years with the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS, greatly admired and respected by his co-workers, Ranger Piepenbring is a "Ranger's ranger" and held in high esteem for his expertise, his common sense and his outstanding leadership; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Piepenbring began his distinguished National Park Service career in 1975 as a seasonal park technician at the Ozark National Scenic Riverway in Missouri; and

WHEREAS, an exemplary employee, in 1981 he received career tenure while at Ozark and in 1985 was promoted to Park Ranger at Buffalo National River in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, Ranger Piepenbring was awarded the Performance Award for Safety in 1987 and in 1988 received an additional Performance Award for conducting river rescue courses; and

WHEREAS, recognized by his superiors as a man of great talent and skill, Ranger Piepenbring was promoted in 1988 to Park Ranger at Cumberland Gap National Historical Park in Kentucky and was named Cades Cove District Ranger at Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 1989; and

WHEREAS, Ranger Jack Piepenbring has become a highly decorated member of the National Park Service having received numerous awards and citations including a Special Act Service Award in 1990 for preparation and presentation of his training module, a 1992 Citation for Exemplary Act following the rescue of a downed pilot in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, a 1993 Special Act Service Award for rescue-related and preparedness activities and a

1993 Unit Award for Excellence of Service in recognition of efforts put forth in emergency search and rescue operations and maintenance of vital Park functions during the Blizzard of 199; and

WHEREAS, Ranger Piepenbring also received a 1994 Performance Award for tradition of excellence as Cades Cove District Ranger, a 1999 Special Act of Service Award for significant advances in search and rescue program, a 2001 Team Excellence Award for keeping critical functions of ranger division running following the death of Chief Ranger Jason Houck and the Sharp Fire Group Award for service as incident commander for three days during the Sharp Fire; and

WHEREAS, Ranger Jack Piepenbring, a man of courage and compassion, has worn many hats as a Park Ranger: diver, climber, paddler, firefighter, emergency medical technician, policeman, and search-and-rescuer as well as administrator; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Piepenbring enjoys the loving companionship of his wife, Barbara, and plans to spend his retirement time by working on home improvement projects and continuing to teach paddling and climbing skills while always enjoying and sharing his love of the outdoors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Jack Piepenbring has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Ranger Jack Piepenbring our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.